

# PARKS AND RECREATION

## GOAL

Provide and maintain natural areas and recreational facilities and opportunities that enhance the health and well-being of the community.

Staff and volunteers maintain parks and manage recreation programs

So that...

The City invests in parks and recreational programs

So that...

The City progresses on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

So that...

Kirkland has an exceptional parks and recreation system

MEASURE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Target
FTE staff for parks maintenance and recreation programs	56.24	59.69	59.76	60.15	60.58	N/A
Park maintenance FTE's per 100 acres developed land	5.05	5.44	5.48	5.48	5.24	N/A
Number of volunteers	2,306	3,012	3,216	3,196	4,960	N/A
Volunteer hours	17,997	19,266	19,431	20,417	21,044	N/A
Parks Capital Improvement Program	\$3,537,578	\$3,823,583	\$3,552,615	\$3,677,400	\$6,558,900	N/A
Parks Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$4,969,719	\$5,097,601	\$5,900,339	\$5,951,738	\$5,853,592	N/A
Recreation Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$2,176,292	\$2,198,858	\$2,326,789	\$2,444,766	\$2,766,891	N/A
Residents with neighborhood park within 1/4 mile radius	68%	68%	68%	68%	74%	100%
Acres of natural area in restoration	48.5	58.6	64.5	80	95.7	487 acres by 2035
Percent of recreation classes meeting minimum enrollment	81.6%	85.4%	87.3%	82%	87%	80%
Residents rate City parks as satisfactory or better	*	95%	*	94%	*	95%
Residents rate recreation and community services as satisfactory or better	*	84%	*	79%	*	N/A

\* Community Survey occurs in even years

## HOW DO WE MEASURE PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES?

The budget and number of FTE staff available to parks maintenance and operations helps measure the department's ability to maintain the parks. With the infusion of levy funds, park maintenance staffing was returned to nearly the level it was in 2010.

Given the important contribution that volunteers make to the City's work, the number of volunteers and their total number of hours is also tracked. The Green Kirkland Partnership carries out environmental restoration in parks almost exclusively through volunteers.

The Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan sets targets that provide benchmarks by which to measure the development and maintenance of Kirkland's parks and natural spaces, including:

- Residents should have access to a neighborhood park within a quarter mile of their home.
- 487 acres of natural areas are targeted to be restored to their natural state by 2035.

Recreation and community services programs and classes are measured by tracking the percentage of programs and classes that meet minimum numbers to operate. This demonstrates how well they match residents' preferences. Over 87 percent of recreation classes met the minimum enrollment, which exceeds the City's target, a good indication that the classes offered meet the demands of community members.

Community member satisfaction with the parks, recreation and community services, as determined by the Community Survey, provides another measure of how well the park and recreation system meets the community's needs.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2012, Kirkland voters approved a property tax levy to restore and enhance funding for daily park maintenance, summer beach lifeguards, major capital improvements and acquisition of park land, all of which support the health and well-being of the community.

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## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Parks and Community Services has changed a great deal over the years. The department currently encompasses parks maintenance and operations, Green Kirkland Partnership, community centers, Peter Kirk Pool, recreation and community services programming, special event support services, youth services, senior services and human services. With the annexation in 2011, the department has increased its scope and responsibility. This includes an increase in park acreage from 490 acres to 601 City-owned acres and new acres have been added to the restoration program, growing it from 30 acres in 2011 to 95.7 acres in 2017. Additionally, the City maintains another 112.30 acres that are not City-owned but available for community use.

In 2017, the recreation and community services staff offered 2,228 unique programs and had 16,221 customers registered for those programs. Unfortunately, there were another 3,228 people on wait lists. The amount of money granted to non-profit organizations to provide human services increased

from \$535,671 in 2011 to \$902,800 in 2017. Finally, the Capital Improvement Program grew from \$888,000 in 2011 to \$6,558,900 in 2017.

The Parks and Community Services Department strives to keep pace with the community growth in order to meet the health, wellness and recreation needs of the community. So far, the department has been able to reorganize to meet the increasing needs. Parks and Community Services will continue to find ways to operate more efficiently, effectively and creatively. New technology is paving the way to automate how services are delivered to the community. Capital improvement projects in development for years have finally moved into construction. Customer service processes are being streamlined to better serve the community and the department is striving to allocate its resources to the community's top priorities. But as the Parks system expands to meet the needs of the growing community, the City will need to evaluate the need for additional resources.



*Trail walk at Edith Moulton Park.*

### Ongoing Improvements to Serve the Community

In 2017, the Parks and Community Services Department continued to strive for incremental improvements in the parks, programs and services offered. The City added to parks and open spaces with the expansion of McAuliffe Park, and acquisitions in the Kingsgate, Juanita Heights, and Totem Lake neighborhoods. These acquisitions added additional acreage, helping us achieve the 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan goals. Additionally, we made substantial progress on capital improvement projects. We added irrigation at O. O. Denny, developed Edith Moulton with park amenities including restoration, an off-leash dog trail, restrooms, a picnic pavilion, and a play area, and made improvements to the Peter Kirk Pool.

In 2016, we upgraded our registration experience with the implementation of CivicRec. Technology also played an important role in 2017 with the implementation of Lucity, a new asset management software, for park maintenance and operations. Lucity has streamlined our data tracking procedures, making it more efficient to manage and prioritize all of our resources including people, parks, projects and programs.

*Participants in the Move and Grow recreation class.*

